



Ms Sarah Blake
Manager Environment and Approvals Projects
Hancock Prospecting Pty Ltd
28-42 Ventnor Avenue
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Ms Blake

Decision on request to vary proposed action – Mulga Downs Iron Ore Mine, Pilbara, WA (EPBC 2022/09255)

I refer to your letter dated 7 March 2023 requesting a variation to the proposed action to construct and operate a new iron ore mine (above and below water table) and associated works, including vegetation clearing, 210 km south of Port Hedland and 180 km north-west of Newman in the Pilbara Region, Western Australia. The proposed action was determined to be a controlled action under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 6 August 2022.

After examination of all relevant information provided to the department on 14 March 2023, I have considered the request under section 156A of the EPBC Act. As a delegate of the Minister for the Environment, I have decided to accept the variation to the proposal.

A copy of the notice recording this decision is enclosed. This document will be published on the Department's website.

I note that all provisions under the EPBC Act have ceased to apply to the original proposal and now apply to the varied proposal, and that for the purpose of the application of those provisions, anything done in relation to the original proposal is taken to have been done in relation to the varied proposal.

I also note that the varied proposal has been submitted to the Western Australia Environment Protection Authority (WA EPA) under a Section 43A application and that the proponent has consulted with EPA Services in relation to this application.

If you have any questions about the referral process or this decision, please contact the project manager, Ashleigh Proud, by email to Ashleigh.Proud@awe.gov.au, and quote the EPBC reference number shown at the beginning of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Brendan Linton-Smith
Acting Branch Head
Environment Assessments West (WA, SA, NT) Branch
13 April 2023